

ditches. It is unlikely that any more normal sites for the foodplant will be found as the last of the grazing meadows which flooded regularly was drained as part of an improvement scheme in the early 1970s and, with the exception of one small site just inside Lincolnshire in which the foodplant does not occur, there are no suitable open fenland sites left.

The survival problem of the moth in drains is that if the drains are not periodically dredged, they tend to silt up and eventually become too dry to support the foodplant. On the other hand, when the drains are dredged any colonies of the species are destroyed unless it is an imago. Added to this is the problem caused when unimportant drains are filled in to make larger and more efficient fields, and the insecticides intended for the edges of these agricultural fields also affect the margins of drains. The survival of the insect in Nottinghamshire therefore depends to a significant extent on the policy of the River Idle Drainage Board and that of local farmers.

My experience of this insect in Nottinghamshire leads me to make two tentative suggestions. The first is that, given the widely scattered pattern of records from Cambridgeshire and Norfolk and the existence of this colony, the insect was once widely distributed in suitable areas between the River Humber and southern Cambridgeshire. It would therefore be worth searching drainage dykes around the margins of fields in former fens or flooded grazing meadows in this general area for other relic colonies. The second is that, the most successful method of conservation of the insect where it occurs in drainage dykes, would be for an appropriate conservation body to purchase two fields either side of a drain in which it occurs, and to manage the drain with a staggered programme of dredging. — MARK STERLING, Department of Law, University Park, Nottingham.

LUPERINA NICKERLII FREYER: SANDHILL RUSTIC IN KENT. — Following the discovery of several resident populations of *Luperina nickerlii* along the Essex coast, a survey of likely-looking salt-marsh sites on the Kent side of the Thames estuary was made on 29th August 1984, by my son Mark and myself; and at one locality, on the Isle of Sheppey, the species was found to be tolerably common and obviously well established. — BERNARD SKINNER, 5 Rawlins Close, Addington, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 8JF.

PAPILIO NIREUS LYAEUS DBL.: PUPAL DIMORPHISM. — A few years ago, I published a paper (1981, *Entomologist's Record*, 93: 75-76) in which I recorded the number of each colour phase of the pupa of *Papilio demodocus* Esp. pupating in total darkness on a smooth surface (glass) and a rough one (sand paper), all other conditions being identical. Green pupae were in a rather larger proportion on the smooth surface. (23.40: 6.25).